

Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) indicated that claims 1 and 3 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species;

(2) reminded Applicant of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure;

(3) objected to the disclosure because the title of the specification does not match the title of the Declaration, and required appropriate correction;

(4) objected to claim 4 because of an informality in line 34, and required appropriate correction;

(5) rejected claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement;

(6) rejected claim 4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention; and

(7) indicated that claims 2 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indicated hereinabove.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicant confirms the election of claims 2 and 4, which are readable (1) on the invention of Species A of the graft ligament group, drawn to one or more strands of hamstring tendon, drawn to Figs. 11 and 12, (2) the invention of Species A of the apparatus group, drawn to Figs. 7-16, and (3) the invention of Species A of the group for the method of pulling wire suture down bone tunnel, drawn to Figs. 15 and 16. Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute all non-elected subject matter in related applications.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicant has now amended the specification so as to replace the Abstract.

In response to Item 3 above, Applicant has now submitted a REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF FILING RECEIPT so as to change "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONSTRUCTING A LIGAMENT" to -- METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECONSTRUCTING A LIGAMENT --. Applicant asserts that the word "RECONSTRUCTING" is used in both the title of the specification on page 1, line 1, and the title of the Declaration. If further correction is required, clarification is respectfully requested.

In response to Item 4 above, Applicant has now amended claim 4 at line 34 as suggested by the Examiner to change "a graft ligament" to -- said graft ligament --. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

In response to Item 5 above, Applicant has now amended claims 2 and 4 so as to more clearly define the present invention as claimed. Applicant has amended each one of claims 2 and 4 to change "a crimp having retaining means for attachment to said flexible filament" to -- a crimp configured for attachment to said flexible filament --, and to change "said crimp having a third diameter, said third diameter being greater than said first diameter" to -- said crimp having at least one given cross-sectional width, said at least one given cross-sectional width being greater than said first diameter --. Claim 4 has been amended to change "said clamp" to -- said crimp --. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In response to Item 6 above, Applicant has amended claim 4 so as to more clearly define the present invention as claimed.

As indicated hereinabove, claim 4 has been amended to change "said clamp" to -- said crimp --. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In response to Item 7 above, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 2 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the above-identified rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has now amended claims 2 and 4 as discussed hereinabove so as to overcome the above-identified rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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